Acknowledgments

The goal of this book was to reexamine all the evidence on the JFK assassination. Any of a dozen issues could have been the subject of a separate book, including, among others, Oswald's time in Russia, Jack Ruby's story, or the actual assassination. Although I had studied the subject and conducted preliminary research for several years, the last two, after Random House agreed to be the publisher, were particularly hectic. There are nearly a million pages of government documents on the assassination, two thousand books, and hundreds of researchers and original witnesses connected to the investigation. In addition, considerable time was spent obtaining information about files still classified by the U.S., Russian, and Cuban governments. Much of the research would not have been possible with the help of many people and organizations (some of whom preferred not to be named).

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Almost two hundred people were interviewed for this book. While I am grateful to all of them for the time they took to speak with me, a few made an extra effort. Carlos Bringuier clarified the anti-Castro issues as well as the problems in New Orleans in 1963; Dr. John Lattimer and Dr. Michael Baden resolved many persistent medical discrepancies; and Earl Ruby provided valuable insights into his brother Jack.

Yuriy Nosenko, the 1964 KGB defector, is familiar with the KGB's handling of Oswald in Russia. He is living under an assumed name in the United States since his life is still at peril because of a standing KGB death warrant. Only twice before had he agreed to private interviews, and they had not been about Oswald. A journalist from one of the earlier meetings had later disclosed the U.S. state in which Nosenko was living, forcing him to move. Despite the risks in granting another interview, he agreed with the argument of my first letter to him, emphasizing his duty to the historical record. The extended time he spent with me, combined with his recall for details, was more than I originally expected.

Bill Alexander, Esq., was the assistant district attorney in Dallas at the time of the assassination. He was an integral part of the investigation after Oswald's arrest and later prosecuted Jack Ruby for Oswald's murder. He is a significant source of untapped information about the case but has seldom given interviews. I am

grateful for the several days he gave me in Dallas, in addition to the many retired Dallas police sources he led me to. His recollections of the assassination weekend helped me better understand many of those about whom I had to write.

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to 1963 Dallas street maps and the like. He has a fine eye for credible sources and solid information.

Harold Weisberg was one of the earliest critics of the Warren Report. Using the Freedom of Information Act in many lawsuits, he has obtained thousands of government documents on the case. He told me, "I feel that just because I fought to get these documents released, that is no reason I should not share them with others." He allowed me full run of his basement, filled with file cabinets, and he and his wife, Lil, graciously received both me and my wife, Trisha, at their home for several days. His attitude toward the sharing of information is refreshing, and although I disagree with him about almost every aspect of the case, I thank him for his generosity in the use of his papers and his time.

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The Assassination Archives and Research Center (AARC) in Washington, D.C., directed by attorney James Lesar, has all the documentation available at the National Archives, but instead of microfilm, everything at the AARC is in an easier format for research—paper copies. There is also an extensive video and photographic library. Members have unlimited use of the center. With annual dues of $25 and a high-speed photocopy machine on the premises, there is no better place for anyone interested in researching the subject.

Charles Schwartz saved me after several computer crashes, as I made the mistake of trying to learn new software while I wrote the first draft of the manuscript. His patience in taking panicked telephone calls at all hours of the night is greatly appreciated. John and Catherine Martin were kind enough to allow my wife and me to be their houseguests on our often unplanned and

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My wife, Trisha, is truly my muse. She is my inspiration at every stage of my work, even enduring my frequent self-doubt